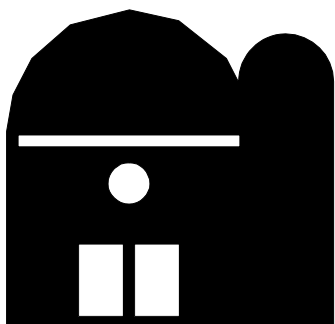




Special Considerations for Agricultural Producers — Preparing for a Flood or a Flash Flood



- If you graze livestock in areas subject to flash flooding, consider using the area for larger animals. Pigs and calves are less likely to survive a flood than larger animals.
- Leave animals an exit route to higher ground when possible. Animals will not always use an exit wisely.
- If you expect heavy rains, pen animals on high ground at night.
- Livestock not in a confined area often can manage flood waters. Do not let them become trapped in low-lying pens.
- In broad, level floodplains where flood waters are seldom deeper than 3 or 4 feet, construct mounds of soil on which livestock can stay until flood waters recede, or carry bales of hay for hogs to climb on. Try to locate these mounds where they will not be washed away by fast-flowing water.
- Provide feed and water. Water is essential. Thirsty animals will try to break out to get to flood waters. If water is in short supply, limit feed intake.
- If animals are housed with machinery, fasten bales of straw in front of sharp edges and protruding parts such as cutter bars or crank handles. Do not use hay because animals will eat it. Try to cover wooden paddle wheels on combines or choppers because these parts can be dangerous if partially broken.
- Block off narrow passageways where animals would be unable to turn around. A few heavy animals in a narrow dead end can be dangerous both to themselves and the building.
- Be absolutely sure that herbicides, pesticides and treated seeds are not even remotely accessible to livestock and are stored where flood water will not contaminate livestock feed or water.
- Turn off electricity at the main switch. Livestock could damage electric fixtures, causing fires or electrocutions.
- If there is a possibility that dairy barns may become inundated, drive cattle out of the barn. During a rapid rise of water, cattle often refuse to leave the barn, and they may drown if the water rises high enough.

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